



**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE**

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: WILLIAM CLARK BARNES, JR., BPR #011399
CONTACT: MAUREEN F. HUGHES
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

July 24, 2025

MAURY COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On July 24, 2025, William Clark Barnes, Jr., an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Barnes was representing a juvenile at a detention hearing in juvenile court. As part of the detention hearing, the parties were looking for viable options to place the juvenile as an alternative to Juvenile Detention. Eventually, Mr. Barnes was able to secure placement for the juvenile with a family member. Mr. Barnes informed the Magistrate that there was an agreement between the parties for placement of the juvenile; however, Mr. Barnes had not discussed this placement with the opposing attorney. The Magistrate drafted the Order and gave it to Mr. Barnes to sign. Mr. Barnes signed his name and also signed the opposing attorney's signature. Mr. Barnes did not have permission to sign the opposing attorney's signature.

By these acts, Mr. Barnes has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 3.3 (candor towards the tribunal), 3.4 (fairness to opposing party and counsel), and 8.4 (misconduct) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.